

REPORT ON THE GENERIC NAMES *ERIOPHYES* SIEBOLD,  
1851, AND *PHYTOPTUS* DUJARDIN, 1851 (ACARINA)  
Z.N.(S.) 2044

by the Secretary, International Commission on Zoological  
Nomenclature

The present case started with an application by Dr V.G. Shevtchenko (*All-Union Entomological Society, USSR*) (*Bull. zool. Nom.* vol. 30: 196–197) for the use of the plenary powers to designate *Phytoptus vitis* Pagenstecher, 1857, as type species of *Eriophyes* Siebold, 1851, and *Phytoptus avellanae* Nalepa, 1899, as type species of *Phytoptus*. The application was supported by Dr Evert E. Lindquist (*Biosystematics Research Institute, Ottawa, Canada*) and 11 other zoologists from the USSR, Poland, India, New Zealand and South Africa. It was opposed by Mr Richard Newkirk (*U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, D.C.*) and Dr H.H. Keifer (*Sacramento, California*) who were supported by five other zoologists, all from the U.S.A.

The Commission voted on the case in Voting Paper (1977) 14 from 1 July to 1 October 1977. At the close of that period, there were 18 votes in favour of Dr Shevtchenko's proposal and three against. Four voting papers were not returned. In returning his voting paper, Dr Sabrosky remarked: "Mr Newkirk tells me that there are several synonyms senior to *avellanae*, and we should consider those before placing *avellanae* on the Official List". In fact, the Commission must either suppress those senior synonyms, or rule that *Phytoptus avellanae* Nalepa, 1899, is to be given precedence over them. On 30 December 1977 I received from Dr Sabrosky a copy of a letter from Mr Newkirk listing the synonyms in question:

- Acarus pseudogallarum* Vallot, 1836, *Mém. Acad. Sci. Arts, belles Lettres Dijon* (1836): 189. Available name.
- Calycophthora avellanae* Amerling, 1862, *Sitzungsber. k. böhm. Ges. Wiss.* (1862): 96. *Nomen nudum*.
- Calycophthora avellanae* Amerling, 1863, in Kirchner, *Lotus* (1863): 44. *Nomen nudum*.
- Phytoptus coryli* Frauenfeld, 1865, *Verh. zool.-bot. Ges. Wien*, vol. 15: 263. Available name.
- Phytoptus coryligallarum* Targioni-Tozzetti, ?1885–1886, *Atti Accad. Georg. Firenze*, (4) vol. 8: 144, pl. 2, figs. 2, 8. Original not seen, but name presumably available from illustrations, if no stronger reasons. Sunk as synonym of *P.*

*pseudogallarum* (Vallot, 1836) by Targioni-Tozzetti, 1888, *Ann. Agricolt.* (1888), Relazione, parte storica: 248–9. *Calycomphora avellanae* “Amerling” [sic], Sorauer, 1886, *Handb. Pflanzenkr.*, ed. 2, vol. 1: 827. Available name.

Of the six names listed above, all but the second and third must be considered by the Commission. I cannot speak for *Phytoptus coryligallarum* Targioni-Tozzetti, ?1885–1886, not having seen the original, but all the others are based on descriptions of either the galls or the activity of the mites. It is no doubt for that reason that none of the names has been used as a valid name (so far as I am aware) in recent times, because acarologists tend to ignore names based on galls or on other aspects of the work of the mites in favour of names connected with descriptions of the mites themselves.

The Commission is therefore invited, first, to vote for or against using its plenary powers in this case and then, either (a) to suppress the four available names listed above for the purposes of the Law of Priority but not for those of the Law of Homonymy and place them on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology, or (b) to rule that none of them is to be given nomenclatural precedence over *Phytoptus avellanae* Nalepa, 1899, whenever it is regarded as a synonym of the latter, and to place them, with suitable endorsements, on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology.

Since the above was written, Mr Newkirk has kindly sent me, among other papers, a photocopy of the following work, which clearly relates to Item 5 of the list of senior synonyms of *Phytoptus avellanae* given above: “Di alcuni rapporti delle coltivazioni cogli insetti e di due casi di infezioni del nocciolo e dell’olivo per cagione di insetti. Memoria del Prof. Ad. Targioni-Tozzetti letta alla R. Accademia dei Georgofili il 1° marzo 1885.” The work, which is dated “1885” includes an appendix entitled “Insetti e Acari concomitanti nelle galle delle gemme del nocciolo”. This is paginated from 27 to 38; on: 32 are comparative dimensions of *Phytoptus coryligallarum* and two other species. There are two plates headed “Atti R. Acc. dei Georg. Ser. 4, vol. 8”, and pl. 2, figs. 2, 8 illustrate *Phytoptus coryligallarum* (the mite, not the gall). This unused name is thus clearly available as a senior synonym of *P. avellanae*. Nalepa, 1898: 9, refers to this work as “(descr. nulla, fig. insuff.)”.

